



DENTAL HYGIENIST

Characteristics of Work

This is responsible work in rendering dental prophylactic service to patients or residents in a state institution or local health department. Incumbents in this classification perform dental work not requiring the services of a professional dentist, involving examination and oral prophylaxis. The duties include promotion of dental health education by instructing resident house mothers and aides in the techniques of mouth care and proper diets. The work is performed under the general supervision of a dentist, who outlines duties and checks work from time to time to ensure that it meets with prescribed standards. Incumbents frequently exercise supervision over dental aides.

Examples of Work

Examples of work performed in this classification include, but are not limited to, the following:

Removes calcareous deposits, accretions and stains from the surface of teeth.

Advises patients and employees on the proper care and treatment of teeth and gums.

Gives dental care prevention treatment to patients.

Instructs residents, direct careworkers, and aides in the techniques of mouth care and proper diet.

Makes appointments, receives patients, orders and maintains instruments and supplies, and keeps records.

Examines residents' teeth and reports findings.

Takes and develops dental x-rays, mixes filling compounds, prepares solutions, sterilizes instruments, and acts as chair-side assistant to a dentist.

Maintains records of professional services rendered and submits periodical reports to dentist in charge or an administrative superior.

Performs related or similar duties as required or assigned.

Essential Functions

Additional essential functions may be identified and included by the hiring agency. The essential functions include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Performs dental prophylaxis, replacement of lost fillings with temporary fillings, and dental x-rays.
2. Schedules appointments for dental care and maintains required records.

3. Teaches dental hygiene inservices and advises patients of proper care and treatment of teeth and gums.

Minimum Qualifications

These minimum qualifications have been agreed upon by Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) in this job class and are based upon a job analysis and the essential functions. However, if a candidate believes he/she is qualified for the job although he/she does not have the minimum qualifications set forth below, he/she may request special consideration through substitution of related education and experience, demonstrating the ability to perform the essential functions of the position. Any request to substitute related education or experience for minimum qualifications must be addressed to the State Personnel Board in writing, identifying the related education and experience which demonstrates the candidate's ability to perform all essential functions of the position.

Physical Requirements: These physical requirements are not exhaustive, and additional job related physical requirements may be added to these by individual agencies on an as needed basis. Corrective devices may be used to meet physical requirements. These are typical requirements; however, reasonable accommodations may be possible.

Light Work: May frequently walk or stand and/or frequently exert force equivalent to lifting up to approximately 10 pounds and/or occasionally exert force equivalent to lifting up to approximately 20 pounds.

Vision: Requires the ability to perceive the nature of objects by the eye.

Near Acuity: Clarity of vision at 20 inches or less.

Midrange: Clarity of vision at distances of more than 20 inches and less than 20 feet.

Accommodation: Ability to adjust focus.

Speaking/Hearing: Ability to give and receive information through speaking and listening skills.

Motor Coordination:

While performing the duties of this job, the incumbent is regularly required to stand; use hands to finger, handle or feel objects, tools or controls; stoop, kneel, crouch, or bend; and reach with hands and arms. The incumbent is frequently required to walk. The incumbent is occasionally required to sit.

Experience/Educational Requirements:

Certification:

Possession of a valid license or certificate to practice dental hygiene in the State of Mississippi.

Required Documentation:

Applicant must submit a copy of his/her valid license or certificate to practice dental hygiene in the State of Mississippi.

Interview Requirements

Any candidate who is called to an agency for an interview must notify the interviewing agency in writing of any reasonable accommodation needed prior to the date of the interview.

